

Draft
CITY OF POMONA
Community Life Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2017
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER BOARD ROOM
505 SOUTH GAREY AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers Board Room with Commissioner Camacho presiding and the following Commissioners present:

ROLL CALL: Present:

Adriana Pinedo, Mayor Appointed
Alfredo Camacho-Gonzalez, District 2
Vince Carpio, Jr., District 1
Arturo Jimenez, Commissioner, District 3
Rebecca Alvarez, Commissioner, District 4
Judith St. John, Commissioner, District 6

Absent: Saul Roque, Chair, District 5

STAFF PRESENT:

Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Tracy Byl, City Liaison
Elizabeth Leon, City Liaison

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Commissioner Pinedo serving AS acting Chair.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner St. John led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Commissioner Pinedo. Members present are noted above.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. March 28, 2017 minutes

Commissioner Camacho motioned to approve the regular Community Life Commission meeting minutes for April 28, 2017. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0

G. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for the Community Life Commission.

Commissioner Pinedo motioned to appoint Commissioner Camacho for Chair. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the appointment.

Motion Carried 5-0

Commissioner Jimenez was acknowledged present at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioner Jimenez motioned to appoint Pinedo for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the appointment.

Motion Carried 6-0

H. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Commissioner Camacho: Youth Engagement Commission - Mayor Sandoval and Councilmember Robledo suggested bringing back the Youth Engagement Commission.
- Commissioner Jimenez: Work with the Pomona Unified School District to put together a committee or a campaign for reducing blight, such as Pomona Beautiful.
- Commissioner St. John: Address Shopping Carts on Fairplex Drive. Request presentation to Code Enforcement to attend Commission.
- Commissioner Carpio: Side Street Lighting and trees - Request presentation from Public Works to attend Commission.

I. PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Carpio: Interested in the census reduction of 25%, also, is there a regional or where are the 600 people at? Are they counted by district or area? He also wanted to know the status of the City of Pomona count.

Staff: Informed the Commission that the City of Pomona website has data on the number of homeless in the County, region, and City. There is a specific count for the City of Pomona. Every year the City designates itself an "opt in city." This means that we work with LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) to complete the count of homeless in the City. We also go an extra step and do a demographic survey where we analyze last year's count. Last year, there were 366 unsheltered persons, and we surveyed 323 unsheltered persons. when it came to the demographic. The count will be done annually. 2017 homeless numbers have not yet been released from Los Angeles Homeless Authority.

Commissioner Jimenez: What happened to all of the homeless people? He still sees homeless people out there, but not like you use to see before? Is it because of the weather that they are being dispersed?

Staff: I can tell you that we have been housing people. There were 226 housed - unsheltered, literally homeless, not from transitional, they were from the street into housing. There is no count for emergency shelter yet, but they have actively housed.

The Winter Shelter Program is from December 2016 to March 2017, but this year Winter Shelter has been extended to December 1, 2017, with the assistance of supervisor Solis and Senator

Connie Leyva, both offices. The shelter will be now be open December 1st 2016 through November 30, 2017, which is the first time the winter shelter has been extended which is part of the presentation and goal.

City has 388 lockers and 255 are filled, and people in the courtyard during the day. So the combination of all of that is where you see the decrease of homeless out on the streets. The transitional storage center has enabled us to enforce the minimal personal property on public land which has been something that we were not able to enforce prior to the lockers. The lockers have enabled us to place a limit of 60 gallons in the locker, but the rest they have to figure out where they are going and cannot keep with you. So, with that has had an impact on the visibility of the encampments. So there is the difference that you are seeing.

Commissioner Jimenez: Are showers going to be made available sooner?

Staff: The Armory is still open and has restrooms and showers. The Armory is averaging 125 people a day that are able to take a shower.

Commissioner Jimenez: What are the times available for showers?

Staff- The showers are available 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Commissioner Jimenez: One of the issues with business owners is that people lock themselves in the bathroom and owners then have to call PD to get them out.

Staff- Court yard at the Armory is open during the day and (2) restrooms are available. The Armory is open at night and the court yard is open during the day.

Homeless Strategic Plan presentation by Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

Staff- The City has moved forward in adopting a Strategic Plan regarding Pomona homelessness. The Strategic Plan is called A Way Home.

In October 2013, we went to Council regarding the situation of homelessness. At that point, staff provided a 10-year look back, 2003 to 2013 as to what has been done with homelessness; such what the counts looked like, the programs that were in place, and made recommendations.

The recommendations were that we do a forum where we go to the community and talk about homelessness, and that was accomplished in August, 2015. As a result, there was a homeless advisory committee which reflected the areas of concern. In 2016, City Council held a study session regarding everything that occurred in 2013 and 2016. The Homeless Advisory Committee met for a year and provided a recommendation that provided a strategic plan, which was brought to City Council. The Homeless Advisory Committee was key to the Strategic Plan, and was convened under Pomona's Promise. The attendance of the committee reflected the community, residents, homeless individuals, business owners, community, educational institutions, elected official or those representing and faith-based organizations. The goal of the Housing Advisory Committee was to make the following list of recommendations: Housing facilities, programs, community perception, public relations and public policy.

The Strategic Plan had four goals:

Goal A	Reduce the Number of Pomona's Unsheltered Homeless
Goal B	Reduce the Negative Impacts on Community Neighborhoods and Public Spaces through the Coordination of Services
Goal C	Have an Engaged and Informed Community Regarding Homelessness and Homeless Solutions
Goal D	Balance the Needs and Rights of Homeless Persons and the Larger Community through Updated Fair, Legal and Enforceable Policies and Ordinances

The balance was community and compassion, and with the feedback we were actually able to meet that balance

We wanted to meet priorities and have tangible outcomes and realistic timeframe with reports.

GOAL A	Reduce the Number of Pomona's Unsheltered Homeless	Priority	Timeframe
Strategy A1	<i>Establish a Year-Round Shelter(s) Able to Provide for Multiple Subpopulations</i>	No. 1 URGENT Goal	6 -12 months
Strategy A2	<i>Support and Encourage the Development of Affordable and Supportive Housing Across the Spectrum of, and Proportionate to, the Need by Household Types</i>	Medium	24-36 months
Strategy A3	<i>Increase Incomes for Self-Sufficiency and Housing Sustainability</i>	Medium	24-36 months
Strategy A4	<i>Strengthen, Expand and Support the Pomona Homeless Outreach Program</i>	Medium	24-36 months
GOAL B	Reduce Negative Impacts on Community Neighborhoods and Public Spaces Through the Coordination of Services	Priority	Timeframe
Strategy B1	<i>Establish a Service Center for Centralization and Coordination of Services</i>	URGENT	6 -12 months

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2017 PAGE 5

Strategy B2	<i>Establish a Communal Kitchen for the Provision of Food Services</i>	URGENT	6 -12 months
Strategy B3	<i>Coordinate Community-Based Volunteer Services for the Homeless and Agencies Serving Them</i>	High	12-24 months
Strategy B4	<i>Collaborate with the County, Tri-City Mental Health and Pomona Valley Medical Center to Address Systems Impacting Homelessness in Pomona</i>	Medium	24-36 months
Strategy B5	<i>Advocate for Fair-Share Participation with Neighboring Cities</i>	High	12-24 months
Strategy B6	<i>Direct the City's "Neighborhood Improvement Task Force" to Focus on Solutions Related to Homelessness and Reducing its Impact on Pomona Neighborhoods</i>	URGENT	1-3 months
Strategy B7	<i>Provide Lockers for Storage of Personal Belongings and Implement a Complementary Travel Lite Campaign</i>	URGENT	Operational by November 30, 2016
Strategy B8	<i>Coordinate a "Filling the Gap" Transportation System for Clients Referred to Agencies and Appointments</i>	Low	40-60 months
Strategy B9	<i>Launch a "Positive Change NOT Spare Change" Campaign Addressing Panhandling and Donations</i>	Low	40-60 months
Strategy B10	<i>Enhance, Strengthen and Support the Pomona Continuum of Care Coalition to Help Implement "A Way Home" Strategies</i>	Medium	9-12 months
Strategy B11	<i>Implement Ongoing Health Interventions to Identify and Provide Services to the Most Vulnerable and Medically Fragile Homeless</i>	Medium	24-36

GOAL D	Balance the Needs and Rights of Homeless Persons and the Larger Community through Updated Fair, Legal and Enforceable Ordinances and Policies	Priority	Timeframe
Strategy D1	<i>Evaluate Current Policies and Ordinances and Create Policies and Enforceable Ordinances that Support the Strategies</i>	Urgent	Parallel Supported Strategy Implementation
Strategy D2	<i>Create a Safe and Secure Park and Civic Plaza Experience</i>	High	6-48 months
Strategy D3	<i>In Conjunction with the Opening of a Communal Kitchen, Create and Enforce Policies and Ordinances Around the Provision of Food in the City</i>	High	12-24 months
Strategy D4	<i>Secure Additional Resources to Address Homelessness</i>	High	12-24 months
Strategy D5	<i>Evaluate Staffing Needs to Ensure Adequacy of Program and Strategy Implementation</i>	Medium	24-36 months

Staff: Many Churches feed the homeless within our parks, so that becomes a negative impact on those residents or people who want to use our parks. Therefore, members of the committee felt that a communal kitchen would be the answer to that, to serve and to do in a way that does not have a negative impact our community making that a balance.

Therefore, each strategy was looked at having that balance with community and compassion.

Another urgent matter was providing the storage lockers, which was one of the first things that was accomplished and became available November 21, 2016. The lockers have proven to be what they proclaimed to be which is the ability to enforce. There are a lot of ordinances that we cannot enforce; however, when we do have the ability to enforce with the lockers, then we do have a reduction of visibility.

Goal C: Have an Engaged and Informed Community Regarding Homelessness and Homeless Solutions. This is to inform every one of the strategic plan, not only in Pomona but outside of Pomona as well who are stakeholders to the solution.

Goal D: Balance the Needs and Rights of Homeless Persons and the Larger Community through Updated Fair, Legal and Enforceable Policies and Ordinances: Urgent matter was to Evaluate Current Policies and Ordinances and Create Policies and Enforceable Ordinances that Support the Strategies. Therefore, as the communal kitchen is created, then you take a look at what are the policies and ordinances that can be enforced. The same goes for storage lockers

and year around shelter, each have a counter-balance that may be enforced. Solutions of not displacing the issue but addressing the issue

Each goal and strategy has a description, benchmarks, performance matrix, costs. No matter which strategy you go through, it is a familiar format and each format is self-contained. There is also a lot of information on demographics, region, count and a lot of information in the strategic plan. Each strategy has activities with four goals 30 strategies with over 140 activities. All activities can be accomplished, not just developing a plan but implementing the plan as soon as it was adopted.

Council responded to the urgency of the strategic plan September 2016, the Pomona City Council declared a “shelter crisis”, finding that a significant number of persons within the City’s jurisdiction are without the ability to obtain shelter. Basically when you have 366 unsheltered that is considered a crisis, and declaring that crisis allowed the plan to move forward in implementing some of the strategies.

October 2016 City Council approved funding for the HEART Team which is a public works team which has been working on an enforcement of travel light campaign which works with people to pare down with the 60 gallon locker storage use and also to address the encampments.

A national agency came in to take a look at the City’s funding which is 2.6 million dollars in homeless specific funding; most of the funding is in rental assistance. An outside entity did an evaluation on the effectiveness and efficient use of homeless funds. The Outreach Team was the most successful grant that we have exceeding their goal and housing people.

The Transitional Storage Center opened in 2016 and Council authorized the purchase of a shelter site and development of the site plan. The Strategic Plan was presented to City Council and was adopted in January, 2017. In March, 2017, the site for the shelter has been looked at to see what was needed to establish.

The strategic plan, which involved establishing a shelter, service center, a communal kitchen and storage center, and where deemed to accomplish first, will all be accomplished through the emergency shelter site located at 1400 E. Mission on 2.6 acres of land. The site will have the year-around shelter. Basic services, security, restrooms, laundry mats, showers, communal kitchen and the storage lockers will be brought from the Armory to the site, a pet kennel.

One of the big barriers that is found for people who are homeless is that they will not go to a shelter if they have nowhere for their pet.

There will be services on site and a coordinated entry system, which is not only of bringing people in but the outcome of getting them housed. The whole goal is the focus of housing. The street outreach team will be housed on the site, will have a specialist and housing navigator. It will also have site partners who will be able to provide primary health care and veterinary services on site.

The centralized service site plan is preliminary, and consists of some buildings already on the site and there will be an RFP to get a design-builder to get the design built. The entry will have the outreach time and mental health and all people will go through a coordinated entry check with security to ensure we have a secured campus. There will be an amnesty box for alcohol, contraband, and weapons which will be delivered to the police station. There will also be a mobile unit pad space on campus so that other agencies can come in and offer their services.

The day area will consist of communal kitchen and a transitional storage center with ownings and a place to sit, with the goal to keep people on campus to engage in services and housing.

There is a communal kitchen at Union Station where faith-based organizations provide meals 365 days a year, 3 times a day, and they do not have to make meals. The City of Pomona hopes to mirror that.

The fabric structure 13,000.00 sq. feet will be insulated with lighting, AC system, doors, windows and ventilation with office space. Consistent beds for 175 to 200 because that is the City's count. The City does not want to make a permanent structure until they know what will be needed. There will be modular toilets and showers with private dressing to treat people with dignity and respect. The modular laundry mat is done to cut back on bed bugs and lice. The kennel will be used to reduce barriers.

The City is working towards A Way Home. RFQ will be released for an operator of the site. The City of Pomona is not operating this. The design team will begin In June, so we hope to have the operator and design team work together on this project.

Questions?

Jimenez: When you said 175 occupants, does that include adults and children?

Staff: The count of 366 is for single adults. The majority are 95% single

Jimenez: Male and female bathrooms?

Staff: Best Practices will be used for male, female and transgender. The operators will be able to address.

Jimenez: How will the operator be screened?

Staff- Through the RFQ process. With measure H, there are 355 million dollars coming in from the county which specifically addresses homelessness. Therefore, the City will be applying for the monies included with the chosen operator.

Jimenez: Concern is the pets, how will they be accommodated?

Staff: At this point we are most concerned with not creating barriers but reducing barriers. For those that have 3 to 4 pets, through case management. To talk to them about how even finding an apartment would be difficult to do with pet deposits and the reality of those kind of things being a barrier to their housing.

Jimenez: City has the highest pet licensing and are costly to homeless, can you speak to that regard?

Staff: Again, it would be through the operator to make those types of partnerships. Western University has been spoken to since they have vet team. We can definitely look into partnering with the Humane Society.

Jimenez: Thank you for the presentation, I am really proud of Pomona taking this on, we are a big-hearted community. We also open our hearts to the underprivileged. Thank you Paula Lantz. I know that you have really worked hard on this.

Carpio: Why are there two options for the project?

Staff- We want to say we have the capacity for 400 beds. 175 people by 8x8, so you can get a big enough structure that, if necessary, we can go down to 6x6 and accommodate 366 people leaving us with the capacity to expand. One of the points is to be able to enforce our ordinances and relieve our community of those who are unsheltered and have no place to use the restroom and no place to take a shower.

Commissioner Pinedo: Thank you Ms. DeFrank for your presentation. I wanted to talk to you about barriers, sometimes pets can be your barriers. There are many people asking how do you

get housing? How can we help our community? As a commission how can we help with the homeless issue and help this become a successful plan?

Staff: one of the biggest barriers to housing, not just for homeless or those who do not have the means is affordability of housing, to create affordability would be the solution to that. Once a person comes to the campus the partners can look into getting them SSI, may be eligible for other services or hook them up with employment. What happens with Rapid Rehousing? You pay for them to move into housing and pay rent for nine months, but what happens after that? So you want to create the ability for someone to become self-sufficient and not dependent. But, that is a process and affordability is a huge issue regardless of homelessness. We have overcrowding in Pomona because of affordability issues. The Housing Authority just brought on Go Section 8, which is not only for units that accept vouchers, but any landlord would be able to promote an open unit on that website. We also work very closely with landlords, because people who are homeless have challenges, such as criminal history or evictions. There are times when the barriers are so great, that you need to have a time period where you can address those barriers, and that is what we are hoping to accomplish with this campus.

St John: You were saying that some of the ordinances, as time goes by, will be able to be enforced. So is pan handling enforceable right now?

Staff: Pan handling is, depending on the aggressiveness of the pan handling. For someone to ask for a dime or quarter is considered free speech, as opposed to someone getting in your face and is intimidating and to ask you for that is aggressive pan handling. So aggressive pan handling we can address; but what we can do is talk to people for alternatives. Instead of providing someone with a dollar in front of 7-Eleven, instead of creating the system that keeps that person there because they will continue to get another dollar. We can instead encourage that person to give their dollar to a year-around shelter or a non-profit where you know that your dollar will make a difference in a homeless person's life. Positive change.

St John: Do you know what the homeless count was by district?

Staff: We do have the count by census tract, not by district which is part of the strategic plan towards the back also, available on our website under, "Homeless Resources." On the count, you will have to consider that there may be a higher count in one tract, but that may be because Prototypes was counted in that census, because the people who are there are considered to be homeless. People may say that there is a concentration in that one area, but that may be because there is transitional housing in that area.

Carpio: Is Tri-City doing anything? Or other cities?

Staff: I know Pasadena is, I am on the Regional Advisory Committee and they are looking into measure H. One of the things that they want to do is challenge each city to speak to their own. Also at the COG level, bringing that up as kind of a fair share issue, and we do have that as one of our strategies. And I know our Mayor is speaking with other Mayors.

Carpio: Yes, that is a concern that we have a capacity of 175, but yet we have a head count of 689 where are the rest going to go? If Tri-City is in this, then there is a profit for them and they should take responsibility for their own City.

Staff: We are not paying Tri-City to be a partner, they are a partner on site because there will be mental health clients that are homeless.

Paula Lance: I wanted to address the issues regarding Tri-City. They have units in Claremont and La Verne which treat low and moderate income in a ballpark of 40 units. They are focused on Transitional Age Youth (TAY). In Claremont, they have units that help families. They do have housing in both cities, but Claremont has 30,000 people, Laverne 30,000, and we have 60,000. The cities are not ignoring their communities. Thank you.

Pinedo: Informed Commissioners that it was 7:45 and motioned for another 15 minutes. Commissioner Carpio seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0

I. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- a. Staff: Project Spreadsheet: includes the items that were brought up last week for a project status and update report on items questioned by commissioners.

Pinedo: will commissioner Roque be joining us?

Staff: Yes he will be joining us next month, we received a response from him so his absence will count as excused absence.

- b. Staff: Beautifying of Homes Risk/Liability: please take your time to review the response given.

Pinedo- since we are short on time we can revisit for questions.

- c. Staff: Last item was 2016 Pomona Homeless Count

Attachments Project Updates 4-25-2017
 Beautifying of Pomona, Risk Liability
 2016 Pomona Homeless Count

Staff: St. John's inquiry to the air traffic control - Brackett Field: David will be having a noise meeting sometime in June for the community and we will keep the communication going till they give us that date for the meeting.

J. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Carpio: In-house training for the Brown Act this Thursday.

Staff: Yes, Brown Act training at 6:00pm here at Chambers, and package should be provided as you come in.

Camacho: Kudos to the Nuestro Pomona planning team for past Saturday clean-up at Ganesha Park and Cultural Arts commission for their dedication.

Jimenez: Clean-up at south Garey with the Mayor and Commissioner Quinones. One of the things we talked about was changing the culture of littering within the community; so, they felt really strongly that the only way to do it is doing it yourself. I would like to encourage Commissioners to join us Tuesday mornings from 8 to 12. For 10 to 15 years, I have always brought up the issue of the off and on-ramp clean up, and since we have our new Mayor, the on and off-ramps have been improved. I think that that proves that leadership does matter and

encourage everyone to thank the Mayor for that. Also, congratulate the Commission for the work that they have done, which has been unprecedented and we have not seen this in a decade. I would like to keep clear and transparent and that none of us feel that indifferent. I know that style can sometimes rub against each other, but we can set aside and look at the substance of what we can learn from each other and thank you for your time.

Alvarez: Just want to reiterate, dead tree removal and replacement and the liability to the City, also, replacing signs that have been missing for years and street sweeping thank you.

St. John: I think we are supposed to talk about things we have attended, and I was at Ganesha Park and attended the joint meeting last night at Fairplex City Council.

Pinedo: I was at the community clean-up. As Commissioner Jimenez said, it does take all of us and everyone's leadership which make it our ownership. The neighborhood clean-ups by district coordination also with the council districts. Councilmember Robledo has a big bulky item clean-up Saturday morning neighborhood clean-up at Ganesha Park. We look forward to joining things like that, letting folks know that, "Hey the bins are going to come in a month or two." Let's make sure that we get you set up for that going out with the Mayor or going out with the community, because we want to continue to cultivate that culture of ownership and being proud of our back yard and making sure we keep it up nice.

I want to bring up to the commission that I received an email from **California Association of Human Relations** organization. They focus on human relations commissions, and this is regarding a survey on our Community Life Commission. I will forward this information to Commissioners. The survey asks "How does your City go about taking public input? Is there a budget for your community relations commission? What are you focusing on? What would you like to focus on?" It gave me a lot to think about, and I think this will help us out in the future, I will make sure to share this.

Jimenez: Just for information, there is a No Dumping sign and yet someone dumped large pieces of wood. Can we pass that on to whomever has to pick up trash? South Garey monument sign south of In-N-Out big trash can and exposed wire.

Staff: we can make sure that Public Works is aware of that and pass it on. We will need to look if it is public or private land and address it accordingly.

K. UPCOMMING EVENTS

Pinedo: I would like to invite everyone on April 28, 29 and 30 to the pow wow at Cerda Park, where thousands of people come to this event from all over the country to spend the weekend here at Pomona. There is a beautiful ceremony with dance, vendors, lots of food and you get to meet some of your community. One of the beautiful things that happened, I heard that many people were there talking and being with each other that had not spoken in many years, and I think it is something that is valuable and set as a goal to make that the tone for our community learning from one another and making sure that those relations are open and communication is there. So I hope to see you there.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pinedo: I move to adjourn this meeting at 8:01 p.m.

The City of Pomona Community Life Commission is hereby adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of May 23, 2017, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Leon
Community Life Commission Liaison

Adriana Pinedo
Acting Chair for Community Life Commission